

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph 5, beginning on page 8, with the following amended paragraph:

As an option, the shelf 50 can have a band 48 positioned about the edge of the shelf 50, the ~~[[bend]]~~ band bending in response to an obstruction such that items would not be crushed when the shelf 50 is raised. See Fig. 1a. In this configuration, an obstruction between the shelf and the access opening, such as an item of jewelry, would not be crushed. The shelf 50 is raised and lowered by a lifting mechanism 56, to be described, and there is at least one door 92, shown in dashed lines, mounted on the front side panel for accessing the items.

Please replace paragraph 1, on page 9, with the following amended paragraph:

In Fig. 1, the lifting mechanism 56 has a pair of upstanding and spaced apart ~~[[guide]]~~ guides 62 at opposite ends of the shelf 50. Each guide 62 is disposed along or adjacent the peripheral wall 44. Each guide 62 in Fig. 1 is aligned along a longitudinal axis 94 and in the embodiment of Fig. 1 includes a track 100 having track teeth 152. The track is adapted to cooperate with a gear 108 such as a cogwheel. The gear 108 is rotatable about an axle 168. Each guide 62 is in a substantially vertical position, i.e., are thus aligned vertically.

Please replace paragraph 2, on page 14, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to Fig. 12, one of the rail support 160 of Fig. 1 is shown in more detail connected a side 24 of the protected display case 22 such that there is formed a cavity that houses the movable panel assembly 80. A comparable worm gear 74 on the other side of the stabilizing assembly 166 houses the cord 114. A hat shaped rail 158 works in cooperation with each carriage 164. The carriage 164 includes the ~~[[wheel]]~~ wheels 150 and the movable shelf support 78.

Please replace paragraph 3, on page 14, with the following amendment paragraph:

The center section of the hat shaped rail 158 supports the track 100 and the free outwardly turned edges 162, or flanges, of the hat shaped rail 158 serve as a guide for the ~~[[wheel]]~~ wheels 150 mounted on a carriage 164 supporting a gear 108. It is the contact between the edges 162, or flanges, of the hat shaped rail 158 and the ~~[[wheel]]~~ wheels 150 that substantially restrict the horizontal or tilting movement of the carriage 164 so that the carriage 164 moves in a substantially vertical manner, i.e. with substantially no lateral deviation as it moves up and down the track 100. Thus, the carriage 164 moves in a substantially vertical direction. The combination of the hat shaped rail 158 and the carriage 164 comprises a stabilizing assembly ~~[[166]]~~. Each carriage 164 supports the worm gear 74 so that rotation of the rod 148 rotates the gear 108 which in turn moves the carriage 164 and shelf 50 up or down as was explained in connection with Fig. 1.

Appl. No. 10/021,386
Amdt. dated Feb. 18, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Aug. 27, 2003

Please replace paragraph 1, on page 15, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 12a is a front view of one of the carriage 164 showing the ~~[[wheel]]~~ wheels 150, the gear box 64, and the gear 108.